

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A surge arrester, (1) comprising:  
a stack (10) of a plurality of cylindrical varistor blocks (10a), ~~preferably made of metal oxide~~, which are arranged one after the other in the axial direction of the varistor blocks (10a),  
an upper end electrode (11) and a lower end electrode (12),  
clamping members (15) of least three loops (15a), which connect the upper electrode (12), wherein insulating material comprising at of continuously wound glass fibre fiber, end electrode (11) to the lower end each of said loops (15a) comprises a first and a second strand,  
a bursting-protective bandage (16) in the form of a plurality of rings or bands (16a) wound of ~~fibre~~ fiber, said bandage (16) radially surrounding the varistor stack (10) and the clamping loops (15a), and  
a surrounding, electrically insulating, outer casing (19) of rubber or other polymeric material,  
~~characterized in that~~  
a first cross section (V) of the first strand is mirror symmetric to a second cross section (H) of the second strand, and ~~that~~ wherein a symmetry axis of the first cross section is inclined to a corresponding symmetry axis of the second cross section.
2. (currently amended) A The surge arrester (1) according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the asymmetrical cross sections of the loops (15a) are shaped and located so that not

only two corners, one on either strand, make contact with the varistor stack (10).

3. (currently amended) A The surge arrester (1) according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the asymmetrical cross sections of the loops (15a) are adapted to increase the contact surface against the varistor stack (10).

4. (currently amended) A The surge arrester (1) according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the asymmetrical cross sections of the loops (15a) are adapted to shorten the free span of the rings or bands (16a) inside the loops (15a).

5. (currently amended) A The surge arrester (1) according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the asymmetrical cross sections of the loops (15a) are adapted to enable the rings or bands (16a) to be wound closer to the stack (10).

6. (currently amended) A The surge arrester (1) according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the asymmetrical cross sections of the loops (15a) are adapted such that the shapes of the rings or bands (16a) become approximately circular.

7. (currently amended) A The surge arrester (1) according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the cross sections of the loops (15a) essentially correspond to two mirror-inverted rhombs or rhomboids (V, H).

8. (currently amended) A The surge arrester (1) according to ~~any if the preceding~~

~~claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the rings or bands (16a) are wound of aramide  
~~fibre~~ fiber or PBO ~~fibre~~ fiber with an epoxy or vinyl ester matrix.

9. (new) The surge arrester according to claim 1, wherein the varistor blocks are made  
of metal oxide.